

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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## Editorial

GRATITUDE, like faith, is to be shown by our works.

SUBSCRIBE for the paper now. Only one dollar. The price after December 1, will be \$1.50, unless otherwise ordered by the Board.

IF the Lord were to answer some people's prayers they would be greatly surprised, first because they don't expect the Lord to answer them, and second, because they know not what they ask for.

WE have received orders from several of our pastors for extra mission pledges. This is a hopeful sign. They are pushing the mission work, and this means increased activity along all other lines of church work.

WE still have on hand sample packages of tracts at ten cents each. These packages contain a sample of every tract kept for sale here, and lately a few numbers have gone out of print, so that the only way to get one of each is to purchase one of these sample packages.

THE Annual is in process of preparation but will be a little late. It is our purpose to make the coming Annual the best we have yet issued, but the multiplicity of other duties delays its issue somewhat. Ministers whose addresses do not appear correctly in the former Annual have yet ten day's time in which to make the change.

WE have received up to date about fifty replies to the question, "What is a Christian?" We are pleased to announce that ministers are sending in answers. Let us have at least one hundred replies. After that number has been received the answers will be submitted to competent judges who will pass upon their merits and the result will be announced through the paper.

IT is evident that some of our subscribers do not read the paper as carefully as they should. Several times the announcement has been made that those whose subscriptions expire on or after December 1, can not renew at one dollar; notwithstanding this definite statement in the paper on several occasions it seems to be misunderstood by some of our readers. Not a few whose subscriptions expire with the last number in December have sent us one dollar for renewal of their

subscriptions. Of course you will readily see that according to the decision of the Board, the only thing we can do is to credit such for the time the one dollar pays, that is to number 34 of '98. However if you paid \$1.50 for your paper last year, you are entitled to it now for one dollar.

SOME pastors seem to be afraid that if they collect missionary money, college money and solicit for the EVANGELIST, it will interfere with their salary. This is a mistake. We can point you to churches that are paying regularly to the mission cause, have paid their college apportionment, have a nice subscription list to the EVANGELIST, and with all this *pay their preacher regularly each week.*

TO those of our customers who have ordered samples of Christmas exercises we wish to say that the only such exercise we have is that announced last year, prepared by brother J. Allen Miller. It can be made the basis for an excellent Christmas entertainment. It has the merit of directing the attention of the children to the Christ, the Son of God. Samples three cents. Per hundred \$2.50.

THE author of the statement, "Doctrine is nothing but the skin of truth set up and stuffed," must have been "stuffed" with false doctrine. Doctrine, the doctrine of God, the doctrine of the gospel, is itself truth and it is life. It is more than the "skin," though even that is an important element. If our friend will take doctrine out of the Bible, we wonder whether he will have enough of what he calls truth left to "set up" on ends. A lesson in Physiology as to the functions of the skin might change his views as to the relative importance of doctrine.

THIS is the time of the year, when pastors and Christian workers in general should make free use of tracts. They will help in your revival work. While you are eating your meals at home, or taking your rest, or sleeping during the night, these silent messengers will be doing their work. Get a sample package, then select from them such as will be of most service to you in your work, send the order to us and it will be promptly filled. Try this plan. Get the young people to distribute the tracts for you. They want something to do and this gives you an opportunity to train them into religious work. All successful Christian workers testify to the value of good tracts as factors in bringing souls to Christ.

IT ought to be clear to every one that if the five hundred are to be reached at one dollar it must be done within a few days. Do not say to yourself that the five hundred can not be reached, so it might as well be given up. Rather resolve to furnish your full share of the number and it may be reached yet. Suppose when you get this paper and after you have read it, you at once go to work to get one subscriber at a dollar. If one in ten of our subscribers will succeed in getting the new subscribers the five hundred will be secured yet. Will you try?

WE are sorry to learn that money for the missions is coming in rather slowly. Brethren, this should not be so. It is the Lord's work and must have the support of the entire church. How easily we could support our three missions if each one would do his duty. Five cents a week from each of 1,000 members will give us \$50.00 a week, and this will support our three missions nicely. The trouble is we expect some one else to pay the five cents. Our missionaries should not be required to leave their work to go out to collect money so that they can meet their necessary expenses. They should be supported, it is our duty to support them, the gospel requires us to support them and the Brethren church can not expect to prosper unless we give attention to this important work, the last commission of the Savior. Let us be about our Father's business.

THE real purpose of Thanksgiving day has not been fulfilled when we have met in our respective places of worship and returned thanks to our heavenly Father for his tender mercies. Thanksgiving means more than that. The Lord has graciously blest us during the past year. There have been showers of blessings. An abundant harvest, freedom from war, pestilence and famine, the preservation of our lives and health, the manifestations of a deeper work of grace among God's children, the growth of the kingdom of God, these with many others should call forth heartfelt gratitude to the maker and preserver of heaven and earth. But to go to church and listen to a beautiful discourse on the duty of gratitude, join in prayer and spiritual songs, this is not all of thanksgiving. There is more than one way of showing gratitude. What use have we made and what use are we making of the gifts which the Lord has graciously bestowed upon us? Here is the real test of our gratitude. Were you thankful enough to help